

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the first paragraph [0001] under the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" with the following:

[0001] This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/360,054, filed 02/06/2003, by Eric J. Stelnicki, entitled INFANT HEAD SLEEP GUARD AND METHOD OF USE, which application is related to and claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/354,750, filed 02/06/2002, by Eric Jason Stelnicki, entitled SLEEP GUARD INFANT PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DEFORMATIONAL PLAGIOCEPHALY, TORTICOLLIS, AND TO DECREASE THE RISK OF SIDS the entirety of all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

On pages 2-3, please replace paragraph [0008] with the following:

[0008] According to another aspect, the present invention provides an infant sleep apparatus for controllably positioning and supporting a head of an infant during sleep, the apparatus having a headgear. At least one support pad is removably attachable to the headgear. The at least one support pad is positionable between the head of the infant and a sleeping surface.

On page 3, please replace paragraph [0009] with the following:

[0009] According to another aspect, the present invention provides a method of using a headgear to controllably position and support a head of an infant during sleep, in which at least one support pad is selected in which the selected support pad is positionable between the head of the infant and a sleeping surface. The selected at least one support pad is attached to the headgear. The infant is positioned to place the support pad between the head of the infant and the sleeping surface.

On page 3, please replace paragraph [0010] with the following:

[0010] According to yet another aspect, the headgear of the present invention includes at least one rear support pad removably attachable to the headgear in which the rear support pad is positionable about the back of the head of the infant.

Please amend paragraphs [0007], [0047], [0048] and [0051] as follows:

[0007] The subject invention provides an infant positioning system and method for positioning an infant during sleep. The infant positioning system includes an infant support device and a headgear. The infant support device is configured for receiving the infant, and selectively changing the position of the infant each night. The headgear is configured to fit about the head of the infant, dispersing the pressure at sleeping surface places on the head of the infant. The headgear has at least one support pad removably attachable to the headgear. The support pad is positionable between the infant's head and the sleeping surface.

[0047] Referring to FIGS. 9 and 10, the headgear 42 further includes a pair of rear pockets 50 each being positioned tangentially to a side pocket 48 and configured for receiving a rear support pad 52. The tangential positioning of the rear pockets 50 and side pockets 48 enable the rear support pads 52 and support pads 46 to substantially ~~cover~~ cover and protect the side and rear portions of the head of the infant in contact with the sleep surface. As shown in FIG. 11, the rear support pad 52 is substantially toroidal in shape, defining a hollow center 54. Where an infant has developed deformational plagiocephaly, the rear support pad 52 is positioned on the back of the head of the infant, on either the right or left rear side, such that center 54 of the toroid overlays the flattened area. The center 54 of the toroid prevents pressure from being placed on the flattened area. Additionally, the rear support pads 52 can be attached to the headgear 42 by other means known in the art, including but not limited to, snaps, button, or elastic, straps.

[0048] Additional rear support pads 42 52 can be used such that the rear support pads 52 are stackably arranged. The rear support pads 52 are stacked until the contour of the contra lateral side is matched or exceeded. This prevents rolling into the flattened area, allowing growth in this region. The support pads 46 and 52 can be made from soft conforming material, including but not limited to, foam, a foam polymer material, gel, or silicone.

[0051] Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 12, the headgear ~~52~~ 42 includes a center rear pocket 56, substantially centered on the back of the headgear 42, configured for receiving a center rear support pad 58. The center rear support pad 58 is substantially similar in shape to the rear support pads 52. Additionally, the center rear support pad 58 can be attached to the headgear 42 by other means known in the art, including but not limited to, snaps, button, or elastic, straps.